गोरख धंधे में बैंक भी पीछे नहीं' शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है तथा सरकार ने बैंकों के धोखाधड़ी करने के मामले में अंतर्ग्रस्त संबंधित अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० देवी प्रसाद पाल): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) दिनांक 22.1.1996 को चार व्यक्ति बीस रुपए के नोटों की गड्डी सहित सिंडिकेट बैंक के गाजियाबाद स्थित मंडल कार्यालय पहुंचे। इस पैकेट में बीस रुपए के ऐसे कई आधे कटे नोट थे, जिन्हें एक रुपए के नोट के साथ चिपकाया गया था। इस गड्डी को स्टेपिल पिनों से इस तरह से बन्द किया गया था कि गड्डी को गिनते समय आधे कटे नोट आसानी से नहीं दिखाई देते थे। इस गड्डी पर सिंडिकेट बैंक की एक ऐसी फटी हुई चिप्पी लगी थी, जिस पर किसी शाखा की कोई मुहर अथवा नाम नहीं था। संबंधित व्यक्तियों से पूछताछ करने पर सूचित किया गया कि नोटों की यह गड्डी विजयनगर, गाजियाबाद में आयोजित देवी जागरण के दौरान किसी अज्ञात व्यक्ति द्वारा गुप्त दान के रूप में दी गई थी। चूंकि चिप्पी पर जारी करने के स्त्रोत के बारे में कोई सूचना नहीं थी और जो व्यक्ति इस मामले को बैंक की जानकारी में लाए थे, वे कोई सुराग नहीं दे पाए और वे इस मामले को लिखित रूप में देने के लिए भी तैयार नहीं थे, अतः बैंक इस मामले में आगे कोई कार्रवाई नहीं कर पाया।

तथापि, बैंक ने गाजियाबाद मंडल के अन्तर्गत आने वाली शाखाओं को एक परिपत्र जारी किया है कि ग्राहकों से नकदी लेते/उन्हें भुगतान करते समय सचेत रहें।

Income Tax notice to PILCOM

1312. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minsiter of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income Tax Department has served any notice on the PILCOM (Pakistan India Lanka Committee) to submit its return within a week as reported in the Financial Express, New Delhi Edition, dated 18th February, 1996;

(b) whether the PILCOM has denied such contravention of any Income Tax Laws by the Wills World Cup Orgnisation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons advanced for PERA violation by PILCOM: and

(d) in what manner the Income Tax Department propose to collect the taxes knowingly that PILCOM would be dissolved on 31st March, 1996, indicating the amount of foreign exchange involved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such denial or reply to the notice issued has been received by the Assessing Officer of PILCOM.

(c) The investigations by Foreign Exchange Regulation Authorities are at very initial stage. Appropriate action, as may be warranted, will be taken after the completion of investigation.

(d) The taxability of PILCOM and other tax related issues in the case of PILCOM are under consideration of Central Board of Direct Taxes.

Utilisation of Hydro-Power Potential of N.E. Region

1313. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that North-Eastern part of the country has over 50% of total hydro-power potential but only 2% is being utilized in the region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the specific measures being considered to increase the percentage of utilization of the hydro-power potential of that region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) The Central Electricity Authority has assessed the hydroelectrical potential

in India as 84044 MW at 60% load factor. Presently 0.99% of the potential in North-Eastern has been developed and another 0.97% is under development.

(b) The development of hydro-projects has been slow due to low demand in the North-Eastern Region, Power evacuation difficulties, resource crunch and opposition by the States to large hydroelectric projects.

(c) The exploitation of large hydro resources for power generation in the region is being undertaken by the respective State Governments, the Brahmputra Board and the North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO). Besides, the Government has announced special incentives for encouraging greater private sector participation in hydel development.

12.00 Noon

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT IN REPLY TO MOTION OF THANKS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I have received the following message, dated 8th March 1996 from the President. I quote:

"I have received with great satisfaction the expression of thanks by the Members of the Rajya Sabha for the address which I delivered to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 26th February, 1996."

Now, messages from the Lok Sabha.

MESSAGES FROM THE LOK SABHA

I) The Finance Bill, 1996
II) The Appropriation Bill, 1996
III) The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1996
IV) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1996.
V) The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 1996.
VI) The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1996.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

(I)

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Finance Bill, 1996, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th March, 1996

2. The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

(II)

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Appropriation Bill, 1996, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th March, 1996.

2. The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

(III)

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1996, as passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th March, 1996.

2. The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

(IV)

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1996, as passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th March, 1996.

2. The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."